

The Sanford Historic Preservation Board Presents The Sanford Historic Downtown Walking Tour



Sanford, a Brief History...

Sanford sits on the south shore of Lake Monroe at the head of the navigation on the St. Johns River. During the Seminole Wars of the 1830's, the area was the site of an U.S. Army post named Fort Mellon. As settlers move into the area, the town of Mellonville was established. With the advent of commercial steamboat service, the town became a distribution point for goods essential for the growth of Central Florida. When Orange County was created in 1845, Mellonville became the county seat.

In 1870, Henry Shelton Sanford purchased the land west of Mellonville. He planned a new city "the Gate City of South Florida," which he believed would become the transportation hub for all of southern Florida. In 1877, the city of Sanford was incorporated and Mellonville was annexed six years later. In 1880, Henry S. Sanford formed a land company in London to encourage investments in the new city. That same year construction began on the South Florida Railroad with a terminus in Sanford. By 1884, Sanford was a prosperous town with wharves, a railroad station and a large hotel.

Mr. Sanford's greatest interest in Florida was the development of Belair, a citrus grove and experimental garden near Sanford. More than 140 varieties of citrus, including the Valencia orange, were tested for adaptability to the Florida climate.

In September 1887, a bakery on First Street caught fire. The blaze spread rapidly through the wooden buildings on the east side of town until stopped by the volunteer fire department. When the town was rebuilt, the new structures were made of brick.

During the winter of 1894-95, the citrus industry received a serious blow when freezing temperatures destroyed the year's entire crop. Many citizens faced economic ruin and left the area. Those who stayed harnessed artesian wells and developed a subirrigation system that permitted commercial agriculture. By the first decade of the 20th century, Sanford was one of the largest vegetable shipping centers in the United States, and received the nickname "Celery City" for the most successful crop.

On April 25, 1913, Seminole County was officially established with Sanford as the county seat. In the boom and bust years that followed, Sanford shared in the growth of Central Florida.

From 1942 to 1968, the Sanford U.S. Naval Air Station drew many residents away from agriculture and brought new people to the city. Today the old station is Sanford's International Airport.

How To Enjoy The Walking Tour...

This walking tour of Sanford's downtown Historic District will take about one hour. It includes examples of the diverse architectural styles and building materials. The buildings on the walking tour that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places are designated with a bronze plaque.

The starting point of the tour is in the center of town where the clock is located at Magnolia and First Street. The clock originally hung on the First National Bank building. In 1931, A.H. Moses donated the clock to the city. It was placed at the intersection of Park Avenue and First Street where it remained until 1961 when it was moved to the Elks Club on Second Street. On July 9, 1985, the renovated clock was installed at its present location to once again serve as the focal point for downtown.

During your walking tour of the Sanford Historic District, please visit some of the many merchants within the district for a variety of goods and services.

Sanford's Historic Districts...

Sanford has two historic districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The commercial district, with 26 buildings, was listed in 1976 and the residential district, with 434 houses, was listed in 1989.

The Historic Preservation Board administers Sanford's historic districts. Board members are citizens appointed by the Sanford City Commission.

[Virtual Walking Tour](#)

[Printed Tour Guide](#)

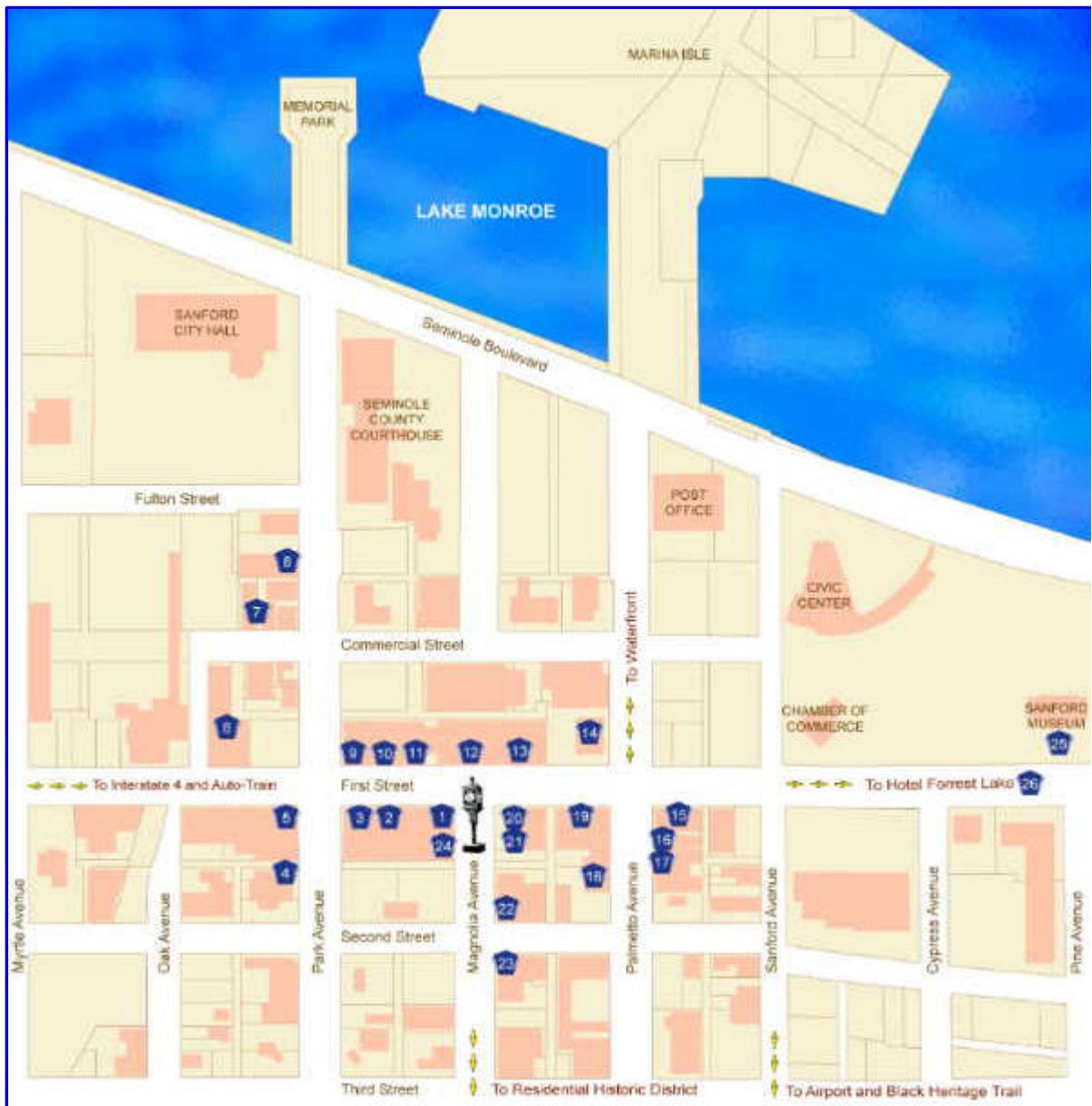
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PDF reader)

*The Sanford Historic Preservation Board Presents
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Begin your virtual walking tour by clicking on the clock tower in the lower center of the walking tour map, to the right of this text.

You may click on any of the numbered identifiers to pick up the tour where you left off, or to start the tour at any location.

After selecting a starting point, you will be led to each subsequent site on the tour.



***The Sanford Historic Preservation Board Presents
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Beginning at the clock tower in Magnolia Square, we will head in a westerly direction along First Street to our first stop, the DeForest Block at 121 East First Street.

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***The Sanford Historic Preservation Board Presents
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From the DeForest Block, we will continue west along First Street to our next stop, McCrory's 5&10 at 105 East First Street.

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**DeForest Block - 1887
121 East First Street**

Known locally as "Touchton's," this brick block is one of Sanford's oldest commercial buildings. It was built in 1887 by Henry L. DeForest and is one of the few survivors of the fire of 1887. Built as a general store, the block was renovated in 1917 by the Seminole County Bank. The building was purchased in 1933 by W. C. Touchton and housed Touchton's Drugs for 61 years.

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places!!

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From McCrory's,
we will continue
west along First
Street to our next
stop, First
National Bank No.
2 at 101 East First
Street.



**McCrory 5 & 10 Building - 1906
105 East First Street**

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Built circa 1906, this brick block first housed a grocery store owned by N.O. Garner and J.D. Roberts. J.G. McCrory's 5&10 moved into the building circa 1917 and remained here for more than seventy years. The metal marquee awning across the front is typical of awnings found on downtown stores during the early 20th century.

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From First National Bank No.2, we will head south on Park Avenue to our next stop, the Henry Lord Building at 112 South Park Avenue.

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**First National Bank No. 2 - 1922
101 East First Street**

This six story building, designed by Mowbray & Uffinger of New York was Sanford's first "skyscraper." Constructed in 1922 by George A. Fuller Co., the building is limestone, brick and hollow tile on a steel skeleton. The First National Bank was located here from 1923 to 1929. The building has served continuously as home to a bank since 1938.

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places!!

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From the Henry Lord Building, we will head back north along Park Avenue to our next stop, First National Bank No. 1 at 101 West First Street on the corner of Park Avenue.

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**Henry B. Lord Building - 1895
112 South Park Avenue**

The one-story brick building has housed a jewelry store for most of its history. Believed to have been built c. 1895 for Henry B. Lord, an early Sanford jeweler, this building became McLaulin's jewelry store in the 1930's. Henry McLaulin, who had learned jewelry making from H.B. Lord sold the business to W.E. Kader in 1943. Kader's remained at this location until 1992.

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places!!

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From First National Bank No. 1, we will head west along First Street to our next stop, the Pico Block at 114 West First Street.

**First National Bank No. 1 - 1883
101 West First Street**

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This 1883 brick block was originally built as the Lyman Bank and is the oldest brick building in Sanford's downtown commercial district. The front door, which originally faced Park Avenue, has been moved twice. When the bank was reorganized as the First National Bank in 1908, the building was faced with marble and the door was moved to the corner. A later remodeling moved the door to its present location facing First Street. The organizational meetings to create Rollins College were held in this building. The city clock which now sits in Magnolia Square, was originally purchased for this building.

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places!!

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From the Pico Block, we will head north along Oak Avenue to our next stop, the Pico Hotel, Restaurant, and Stores at 209 North Oak Avenue and 200 North Park Ave.



**Pico Block - 1887
114 West First Street**

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The PICO (Plant investment Co.) Block was built in 1887 by Henry B. Plant to house his company's Sanford offices. It is part of a complex of buildings constructed when this area was the center of Sanford's railroads. The remains of a carriageway may be seen on the Oak Avenue side of the building. The brick facade of this L-shaped structure was covered with stucco in the 1920's when it became the Welaka Apartments. In the 1980's the stucco was removed from the first floor.

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places!!

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From the Pico Hotel, Restaurant, and Stores, we will head northeast to Park Avenue to our next stop, Masonic Lodge #62 at 212 North Park Ave.

**Pico Hotel, Restaurant, and Stores - 1887
209 North Oak Avenue
200 North Park Avenue**

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Built as a hotel in 1887 for Henry B. Plant, President of the Plant Investment Co. (PICO), this building served as a terminal hotel for the railroads and river steamboats that served Sanford. The architect was W.T. Cotter of Sanford (designer of the Cathedral of St. Augustine) and the builder was H.M. Papworth Construction Co. (Papworth was also Sanford's Fire Chief). The Turkish style resembles Plant's Tampa Bay Hotel. An onion dome originally topped the corner tower and a striped metal awning surrounded the first floor. For many years Bertha Takash ran a restaurant in the hotel. The brick building next door was also built by Mr. Plant in 1887 as additional retail space.

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places!!

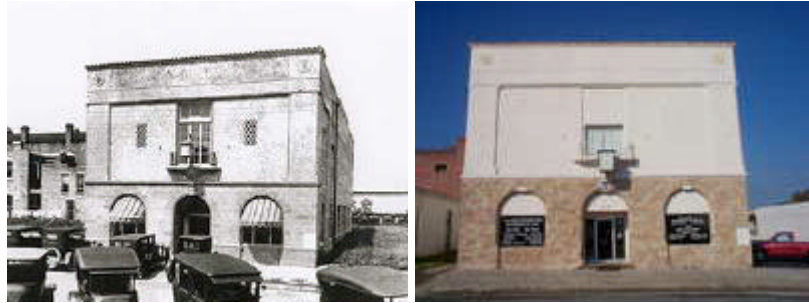
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From Masonic Lodge #62, we will head south along Park Avenue to our next stop, the Brumley-Puleston Building at 100 East First Street.

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**Masonic Lodge #62 - 1924
212 North Park Avenue**

Sanford Lodge #62 F&AM (Masons) built this building in 1924 at a cost of \$45,000. The building was designed by local architect Elton J. Moughton, one of Florida's first licensed architects. The lodge room is on the second floor. The Lodge's cornerstone, which conceals a time capsule, is located on the northeast corner of the front. Sanford's Masonic Lodge was chartered in 1872 in Mellonville and is one of the oldest lodges in Florida.

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From the Brumley-Puleston Building, we will head east along First Street to our next stop, the DeForest Building at 104 East First Street.



**Brumley-Puleston Building - 1922
100 East First Street**

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Contractor George A. Fuller, builder of the Lincoln Memorial and New York's Flatiron Building, started construction on this building in 1922 for Dr. L.A. Brumley and Dr. Samuel Puleston. Roumillat and Anderson Drug Store opened shortly after building completion on May 5, 1923. The building is constructed of Greendale rug-faced brick trimmed in artificial stone. Only the street level facade has been altered since construction.

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places!!

***The Sanford Historic Preservation Board Presents
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From the DeForest Building, we will continue east along First Street to our next stop, the Rand Building at 108 East First Street.

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**DeForest Building - 1889
104 East First Street**

This was the second brick commercial structure built by Henry L. DeForest on First Street. The facade was significantly altered in the 1950's. Henry L. DeForest came to Sanford as a young man recovering from tuberculosis. He worked as an agent for Henry S. Sanford at first and then went into business for himself, becoming a prominent local merchant and grove owner.

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places!!

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From the Rand Building, we will continue east along First Street to our next stop, the Yowell and Garner Woodruff Buildings at 200-208 East First Street.

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**Rand Building - 1887
108 East First Street**

This building was constructed just after the fire of September 1887. It is named for Freckeric H. Rand who was the general manager and attorney for the Florida Land and Colonization Co. and general freight agent of the South Florida Railroad. The offices of Sanford's first newspaper, The Sanford Journal were located on the second floor during the 1890's. Sanford's early telephone exchange was also located here.

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places!!

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From the Yowell and Garner Woodruff Buildings, we will continue east along First Street to our next stop, the Meisch Building at 224 East First Street.



**N.P. Yowell and Garner Woodruff Buildings - 1910
200-208 East First Street**

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These adjoining buildings were constructed for N.P. Yowell, N.H. Garner and Frank L. Woodruff in 1910. Very similar in appearance, the Garner-Woodruff building to the east has corner quoins and rusticated cornices above the windows. The architect was W.B. Talley of Jacksonville and the builder was George Venable. Woodruff and Watson clothing store was located here for many years.

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From the Meisch Building, we will continue east along First Street to our next stop, the U.S. Post Office at 230 East First Street.

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**Meisch Building - 1923
224 East First Street**

This 1923 building was designed by W.B. Talley and constructed by R.J. Gillespie for the Sanford Investment Co., John Meisch, President. Sanford's first cafeteria, Lu Beth's and Piggly-Wiggly grocery store were among the first tenants. The facade has not been significantly altered since construction. The building is built of reinforced concrete faced with tapestry brick, Arnold ornamental stone, and stucco. The windows are copper trimmed with a Vermont marble base. Red and white decorative terracotta mission tile is on the facade parapet.

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places!!

***The Sanford Historic Preservation Board Presents
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From the U.S. Post Office, we will continue east along and across First Street to our next stop, the Bishop Block at 301-309 East First Street.

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**U.S. Post Office - 1917
230 East First Street**

This building was constructed in 1917 as a U.S. Post Office and has an intact original facade and two original lamp posts. James Westmore was the supervising architect for the building. In 1962, a new post office opened nearby and this building became the Sanford Library. In 1975 it became part of the Seminole County Library System. The Classical Revival building is constructed of red pressed brick trimmed in Georgia sandstone.

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places!!

***The Sanford Historic Preservation Board Presents
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From the Bishop Block, we will head south on Palmetto Avenue to our next stop, the Hester & Shepard Block at 109 South Palmetto Avenue.

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**Bishop Block - 1887
301-309 East First Street**

This block was built in December 1887 for J.N. Bishop and was part of the reconstruction of Sanford's commercial district following the great fire of September 1887. The Romanesque Revival building was constructed by Capt. J.O. Northesag of New York and is distinguished by a low broad arch over the main entrance on First Street. The facade is mostly original but a cone shaped roof over the corner is missing.

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places!!

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From the Hester & Shepard Block, we will continue south on Palmetto Avenue to our next stop, the E. E. Brady Livery Stable at 113 South Palmetto Avenue.



**Hester and Shepard Block - 1887
109 South Palmetto Avenue**

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M.K. Hester and Mr. Shepard had this building constructed in 1887 after the September 1887 fire that swept through downtown Sanford. The building originally had three floors, but the top floor was condemned and removed in 1928. This block served as Sanford's first fire station from 1890 to 1974. The building also served as the City Hall, Police Station and Jail. The only legal hanging in Seminole County occurred behind this building in 1923. After housing Sanford Dry Cleaners for many years, the building was renovated as a private residence in the 1990's.

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places!!

***The Sanford Historic Preservation Board Presents
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From the E. E. Brady Livery Stable, we will cross Palmetto Avenue to the west to our next stop, Whalers Saloon at 112 South Palmetto Avenue.

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**E.E. Brady Livery Stable - 1890
113 South Palmetto Avenue**

Built between 1890 and 1895, this small building originally housed a blacksmith and wagon shop. From 1910 to 1914, E.E. Brady ran a livery, feed, and sales barn here. Brady was one of the areas important celery growers. By 1916 this building was serving as the Seminole County Jail. It later served as the County Health Department. The original brick facade was altered in recent years. The shed roof across the front was removed and the deteriorating facade masked by stucco.

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places!!

***The Sanford Historic Preservation Board Presents
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From Whalers Saloon, we will head south on Palmetto Avenue and then west on First Street to our next stop, the Hotchkiss Block at 213 East First Street.



**Whalers Saloon - 1887
112 South Palmetto Avenue**

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Finished in 1887, this building was built by Colonel A.M. Thrasher, President of Sanford Ice and Cold Storage Company. It originally housed a saloon and a sporting goods store. The Romanesque Revival architectural style is typical of many small brick commercial buildings of the late 1800's and is distinguished by its rather crude and shallow decorative brickwork. The ground story facade was plain brick, now covered.

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places!!

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From the Hotchkiss Block, we will continue west on First Street to our next stop, the Peoples Bank Building and Block at 201-203 East First Street.



**Hotchkiss Block - 1887
213 East First Street**

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The original 1886 brick block at this location was destroyed by the great fire of 1887. Local legend has it that rubble from the first building was embedded in the pediment on the corner of the roof of this Romanesque Revival building when it was constructed for Frederick Hotchkiss in 1887. For many years this housed Manuel Jacobson's department store.

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places!!

***The Sanford Historic Preservation Board Presents
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From the Peoples Bank Building and Block, we will head south on Magnolia Avenue to our next stop, the Sanford Herald Building at 107 South Magnolia Avenue.

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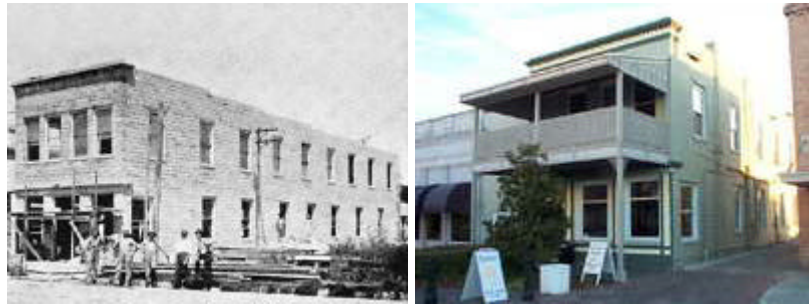
**Peoples Bank Building and Block - 1905-1910
201-203 East First Street**

The Peoples Bank opened its doors on August 30, 1906. The bank was built with pressed white sand brick and stucco by contractor W.G. Hammond. The building has lost much of its exterior decoration over the years. The block next door on First Street was built by the Peoples Bank in 1910 and was used for bank offices and as the home of the Howard-Packard Land Co.

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places!!

***The Sanford Historic Preservation Board Presents
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From the Sanford Herald Building, we will continue south on Magnolia Avenue to our next stop, the Imperial Opera House at 119 South Magnolia Avenue.



**Sanford Herald Building - 1910
107 South Magnolia Avenue**

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This two-story building was built in 1910. It served as the Sanford Herald, a newspaper that began publication in 1908, as offices and printing room. The architect and builder was W.G. Hammond. The Sanford Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF), chartered on March 7, 1889, moved from Cypress Avenue to this building in 1933. Construction is of rusticated concrete block and has the appearance of a small sixteenth century Florentine palazzo. The two-story porch was recently reconstructed.

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places!!

***The Sanford Historic Preservation Board Presents
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From the Imperial Opera House, we will continue south on Magnolia Avenue to our next stop, the Milane Theatre at 201 South Magnolia Avenue.

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**Imperial Opera House - 1910
119 South Magnolia Avenue**

The Imperial Opera House opened June 15, 1910. The contractor, W.G. Hammond built the building for owners T.J. Miller and son. George A. DeCottes was the first lessee. The building is constructed of rusticated concrete in the Florentine Palazzo style with a flat roof and parapet. The original exterior has been covered with stucco and the mezzanine windows and the arched doors have been enclosed.

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places!!

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From the Milane Theatre, we will cross Magnolia Avenue to the west and head north on Magnolia Avenue to our next stop, the Hill Hardware Building at 108 South Magnolia Avenue.

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**Milane Theatre - 1922
201 South Magnolia Avenue**

Restored and reopened in 2000 as the Helen Stairs Theatre, this grand structure is one of the few remaining silent movie houses in Central Florida. The theatre was built in 1922 by Frank L. Miller and Edward Lane who combined their name to form the Milane Amusement Co. During its early years, the theatre was home to vaudeville and Chataqua as well as movies. Rachmaninoff performed here in 1928 and Tom Mix came by in 1933. From 1941 to 1964 the theatre operated as the "Ritz" and was the heart of downtown Sanford. It was here that election returns and World Series games were announced. With the advent of shopping malls, the old theatre slowly declined until the 1990's when community efforts towards restoration began. The theatre is brick, hollow tile, and stucco. The high multi-level roof was built to accomodate the lifting of stage backdrops.

***The Sanford Historic Preservation Board Presents
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From the Hill Hardware Building, we will continue north on Magnolia Avenue and then east on First Street to our next stop, the Sanford Museum at 520 East First Street.



**Hill Hardware Building - 1917
108 South Magnolia Avenue**

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The Seminole County Bank erected this building in 1917 shortly after the adjacent bank building facing First Street was completed. It was constructed of brick and stucco and intended to provide for two stores downstairs and offices upstairs. It was first occupied by Hill Hardware, owned and operated by Mr. W.J. Hill. Hill was an enterprising Englishman who liked to tell people he had lived in a packing crate upon his arrival to Sanford.

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places!!

***The Sanford Historic Preservation Board Presents
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From the Sanford Museum, we will continue east on First Street to our next, and last, stop, Hotel Forrest Lake at 1000 East First Street.



**Sanford Museum - 1957
520 East First Street**

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The Sanford Museum is a division of the Recreation and Parks Department of the City of Sanford and is located in Fort Mellon Park on Sanford's historic waterfront. The Mediterranean Revival building was completed in 1994 and surrounds an earlier structure built in 1957 and expanded in 1974. Established in 1957 as a memorial to the city's founder, Henry S. Sanford, the museum today houses exhibits dealing with the history of the city as well as the life and times of its founder. A local history archives and research library is also available to the public. The Sanford Museum is open Tuesday-Friday, 11:00-4:00 and Saturdays 1:00-4:00. Admission is free. Group tours by appointment.

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This ends our virtual walking tour of Historic Downtown Sanford.
Thank you for your participation.

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**Hotel Forrest Lake - 1925
1000 East First Street**

Popularly called the "Mayfair," this huge brick and stucco hotel was designed by Sanford architect Elton J. Moughton. The hotel was built in 1925 for Forrest Lake, Mayor of Sanford, and was part of the waterfront beautification plans which led to the construction of Seminole Boulevard. Like the boulevard, the hotel sits on reclaimed land in an area that once separated the city of Sanford from the town on Mellonville. In 1930 the failed hotel was purchased by the City and renamed the Mayfair Hotel. In 1948, the hotel was purchased by the New York Giants. From 1963 to 1977 the building housed the Sanford Naval Academy and the interior was significantly altered. The hotel is now the international headquarters of the New Tribes Mission. The exterior is largely original.